

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

HOEFFEL, Joseph M. III. (Democrat)  
Representative, 13th District, Pennsylvania  
Elected 1998 to the 106th Congress  
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



## BACKGROUND

Born: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania - 3 September 1950  
Home: Abington, Pennsylvania  
Marital status: Married (Francesca) - 2 children  
Religion: Protestant  
Education: Boston Univ, BS, 1972; Temple Univ, JD, 1986  
Military: Army Reserve, 1970-76  
Profession: Lawyer

Political: PA House, 1977-84. Unsuccessful run for US House in 1984, 1986, 1996. Montgomery County Commissioner, 1992-98. Elected with 52% of vote in 1998, defeating incumbent Rep Jon Fox (R). Reelected in 2000 with 53% of the vote and in 2002 with 51%.

Rep Hoeffel is a moderate Democrat on social issues and more conservative on fiscal issues. He's a member of the New Democrat Coalition and is described as a savvy pragmatist. Has survived in a Republican leaning district despite attempts by the PA GOP to redraw his district. Supports abortion rights and gun control. Favors stronger regulations of health maintenance organizations to permit more leeway for doctors and patients. Has focused on foreign policy issues and is considered a strong supporter of Israel. Describes Russia as a strategic partner and potential strong ally. Indicated he favors a "responsible" balanced budget. Considered a diligent worker on behalf of his constituents and has directed significant Federal funds to projects in his district. (Politics in America, 2004)

In the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress, opposed legislation granting China permanent normal trade relations status because of his concern with China's human rights abuses. Believed that the President's budget plan struck "the right balance between fiscal discipline and important new initiatives. During debate on the FY99 DoD Authorization, stated that now is not the time to show weakness, to cut funding or to damage the unity of the western democracies. Supported the US effort in Kosovo and chided his GOP colleagues for their lack of support for the US mission in that region. Asserted that missile defense policy must not undermine or compromise the military preparedness of our troops or the planned deployment of theater missile defenses by redirecting much needed resources.

In the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress served on the Budget Cmte where he opposed the 2001 tax cut but supported the 2002 economic stimulus bill. Urged the US to work through the UN to achieve Iraq's compliance with arms control resolutions, but said he would favor unilateral action if that was required. At the beginning of the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress gave up his Budget Cmte seat for a seat on the Transportation Cmte where he says he will support the mass transit needs of Philadelphia and the surrounding region. On 23Jun03 it was reported Hoeffel will run for the US Senate seat in 2004, attempting to displace incumbent Sen Arlen Specter (R).

AF Bases: Willow Grove Air Reserve Station

## COMMITTEES

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS – Subcs on: Europe; Middle East and Central Asia

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE – Subcs on: Highways, Transit and Pipelines;  
Water Resources and the Environment